CLAIMS

1.   A method for providing Internet content via an interactive television system, comprising the acts of:

monitoring usage of the interactive television system;

establishing content access patterns for at least one consumer;

predicting at least one access time at least partially based on the content access patterns; and

downloading content based on the predicted access time.

2.   A method for providing Internet content via an interactive television system, comprising the acts of:

monitoring usage of the interactive television system;

establishing usage patterns for at least one consumer;

predicting at least one time of usage at least partially based on the usage patterns; and

downloading content relevant to the usage based on the predicted time of usage.

3.   The method of Claim 2, wherein usage by the consumer is monitored to establish content access patterns and the method further includes the acts of:

predicting at least one access time at least partially based on the content access patterns; and

downloading content based on the predicted access time.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein usage by the consumer is monitored to establish start-up patterns and the method further includes the acts of:

predicting at least one start-up time at least partially based on the start-up patterns; and

downloading content relevant to a gateway screen based on the predicted start-up time.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein usage by the consumer is monitored to establish shut-down patterns and the method further includes the acts of:

predicting at least one shut-down time at least partially based on the shut-down patterns; and

downloading content relevant to a gateway screen based on the predicted shut-down time.

6. The method of Claim 2, wherein usage by the consumer is monitored to establish request for content patterns and the method further includes the acts of:

predicting at least one future request time based at least partially on the request for content patterns; and

prompting the consumer to accept content based on the predicted request time.

7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising the act of:

if the consumer accepts the prompt, downloading content.

8. An interactive television system, comprising:

at least one Web server having Internet content stored therein;

at least one interactive television system server; and

at least one interactive television, the interactive television receiving Internet content at least from the Web server, the interactive television system server including a program for downloading Internet content to the interactive television at predicted times.

9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the program includes:

logic means for monitoring usage of the interactive television system by at least one consumer;

logic means for establishing usage patterns by the consumer;

logic means for predicting at least one time of usage at least partially based on the usage patterns; and

logic means for downloading content relevant to the usage based on the predicted time of usage.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein usage by the consumer is monitored to establish content access patterns and the program further includes:

logic means for predicting at least one access time at least partially based on the content access patterns; and

logic means for downloading content based on the predicted access time.

11. The system of Claim 9, wherein usage by the consumer is monitored to establish start-up patterns and the program further includes:

logic means for predicting at least one start-up time at least partially based on the start-up patterns; and

logic means for downloading content relevant to a gateway screen based on the predicted start-up time.

12. The system of Claim 9, wherein usage by the consumer is monitored to establish shut-down patterns and the program further includes:

logic means for predicting at least one shut-down time at least partially based on the shut-down patterns; and

logic means for downloading content relevant to a gateway screen based on the predicted shut-down time.

13. The system of Claim 9, wherein usage by the consumer is monitored to establish request for content patterns and the program further includes:

logic means for predicting at least one future request time based at least partially on the request for content patterns; and

logic means for prompting the consumer to accept content based on the predicted request time.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the program further includes:

logic means for downloading content if the consumer accepts the prompt.

15. A method for providing Internet content via an interactive television system, comprising the acts of:

predicting at least one time of usage; and

downloading, to an interactive television, Internet content relevant to the usage based on the predicted time of usage.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising the acts of:

monitoring consumer usage to establish content access patterns;

predicting at least one access time at least partially based on the content access patterns; and

downloading content based on the predicted access time.

17. The method of Claim 15, further comprising the acts of:

monitoring consumer usage to establish start-up patterns;

predicting at least one start-up time at least partially based on the start-up patterns; and

downloading content relevant to a gateway screen based on the predicted start-up time.

18. The method of Claim 15, further comprising the acts of:

monitoring consumer usage to establish shut-down patterns;

predicting at least one shut-down time at least partially based on the shut-down patterns; and

downloading content relevant to a gateway screen based on the predicted shut-down time.

19. The method of Claim 15, further comprising the acts of:

monitoring consumer usage to establish request for content patterns;

predicting at least one future request time based at least partially on the request for content patterns; and

prompting the consumer to accept content based on the predicted request time.

20. The method of Claim 19, further comprising the act of:

if the consumer accepts the prompt, downloading content.

21.   A method for providing Internet content via an interactive television system, comprising the acts of:

monitoring usage of the interactive television system;

establishing usage patterns for at least one consumer;

predicting at least one content source at least partially based on the usage patterns; and

downloading content from the predicted content source based on the usage patterns.

22.   The method of Claim 21, wherein usage by the consumer is monitored to establish content access patterns and the method further includes the acts of:

predicting at least one content source at least partially based on the content access patterns; and

downloading content based on the predicted content source.

23.   The method of Claim 21, wherein usage by the consumer is monitored to establish request for content patterns and the method further includes the acts of:

predicting at least one content source based at least partially on the request for content patterns; and

prompting the consumer to accept content based on the predicted content source.

24.   The method of Claim 23, further comprising the act of:

if the consumer accepts the prompt, downloading content.